

a. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently amended). A system for aligning a trailer hitch ball of a towing vehicle with a corresponding socket on a trailer, the alignment system comprising:

(a) a trailer vertical rod assembly mountable on the trailer, the trailer vertical rod assembly comprising a rod that extends in a vertical direction, the rod being mountable over the trailer socket;

(b) a stop mountable on a ball mount of the trailer hitch of the towing vehicle;

(c) a rear mirror line tab attachable to a rear view mirror of the towing vehicle; and

(d) a rear line tab attachable to a rear window or a tailgate of the towing vehicle.

2 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the trailer vertical rod assembly comprises:

(a) a hollow receiver sleeve having an aperture at an upper end; and

(b) a detachable pin for securing the rod within the receiver sleeve;

wherein the rod is removably insertable through the receiver sleeve aperture into a hollow of the receiver sleeve.

3 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein one end of the rod is affixed to a center of a top surface of the trailer socket.

4 (Currently amended). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the stop is mounted on a ball mount of the trailer hitch ~~behind the trailer hitch ball~~ between the stop and a rear end of the towing vehicle, an upper portion of the stop extending vertically above the level of a hitch ball of the trailer hitch.

5 (Currently amended). The alignment system according to Claim 2, wherein the stop comprises a stop plate having a height that is greater than the height of the hitch ball, a face of the stop plate being parallel to a bumper of the towing vehicle.

6 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 5, wherein the stop further comprises a stop brace, the stop plate comprises a rear side facing the trailer hitch ball, and a front side opposite the rear side, the stop brace being generally triangular in shape and attached to the front side of the stop plate.

7 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the rear mirror line tab is oriented vertically on a center of the rear view mirror, and the rear line tab is oriented vertically on a center of the rear window of the towing vehicle.

8 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein a bottom face of the rear mirror line tab and a bottom face of the rear line tab comprise an adhesive, and the line tabs are removable.

9 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 6, wherein at least one suction cup is attached to the rear line tab.

10 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 2, wherein the rear mirror line tab is incorporated into a transparent, first plastic sheet, and the rear line tab is incorporated into a transparent, second plastic sheet, the first plastic sheet being removably

insertable in and attachable to the rear view mirror, and the second plastic sheet being insertable in and removably attachable to the rear window or tailgate.

11 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 2, wherein the receiver sleeve is mounted on a top side of the trailer socket at the center of the socket, so that the receiver sleeve extends upward in a generally vertical direction.

12 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 2, wherein a permanent magnet removably attaches the receiver sleeve to the trailer socket.

13 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 6, wherein the stop is permanently attached to a ball mount of the trailer hitch.

14 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 2, further comprising a receiver sleeve attachment assembly comprising an L-shaped section and an attachment arm, the L-shaped section comprising a horizontal portion and a vertical portion, the vertical portion of the L-shaped section being attached to a first end of the attachment arm, a second, opposite end of the attachment arm being attachable to a tongue of the trailer.

15 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 2, further comprising a receiver sleeve attachment assembly comprising an inverted U-shaped section and matching arms for attaching the inverted U-shaped section to the trailer, the inverted U-shaped section comprising a substantially horizontal section, a first, bottom end, and a second, bottom end, and the matching arms comprising third ends being attached to the first, bottom end and the second, bottom end of the inverted U-shaped section and fourth ends being attachable to a tongue of the trailer.

16 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 15, wherein the horizontal section of the inverted U-shaped section comprises a generally circular, threaded, receiver sleeve hole and the receiver sleeve comprises a correspondingly threaded end insertable in the receiver sleeve hole.

17 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the trailer vertical rod assembly further comprises a U-shaped pin, the U-shaped pin comprising a linear pin section and an opposite, curved pin section, the linear pin section being insertable through a generally circular, fourth hole extending transversely through the receiver sleeve and a generally circular, fifth hole extending transversely through the rod, the curved pin section contacting the receiver sleeve.

18 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the rod is telescoping and pivotable.

19 (Original). The alignment system according to Claim 1, wherein the rear mirror line tab is attachable to a rear mirror adjuster switch.

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20 (Original). A system for aligning a trailer hitch of a towing vehicle with a corresponding socket on a trailer, the alignment system comprising:

(a) a trailer vertical rod assembly mountable on the trailer, the trailer vertical rod assembly comprising a rod that extends in a vertical direction;

(b) a stop mountable on the trailer hitch;

(c) a rear mirror line tab attachable to a rear view mirror of the towing vehicle; and

(d) a tailgate line tab attachable to a front face of a tailgate of the towing vehicle.

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21 (Currently amended). A system for aligning a trailer hitch of a towing vehicle with a corresponding socket on a trailer, the alignment system comprising:

(a) a trailer vertical rod assembly mountable on the trailer, the trailer vertical rod assembly comprising a vertically extendible rod;

(b) a stop mountable on a ball mount of the trailer hitch;

(c) a rear mirror line tab attachable to a rear view mirror of the towing vehicle; and

(d) a trunk vertical rod assembly attachable to a trunk lid of the towing vehicle; wherein the stop is not a bumper of the towing vehicle and the system does not comprise any pole extending up in a vertical direction from the trailer hitch.

22 (Currently amended). A kit for aligning a trailer hitch of a towing vehicle with a corresponding socket on a trailer, the kit comprising:

(a) a trailer vertical rod assembly mountable on the trailer, the trailer vertical rod assembly comprising a vertically extendible rod;

(b) a stop mountable on the trailer hitch; and

(c) a rear view mirror line tab attachable to a rear view mirror of the towing vehicle; ~~and~~

~~(d) a rear line tab attachable to a rear window or a tailgate of the towing vehicle.~~

23 (Original). The kit according to Claim 22, further comprising a trunk vertical rod assembly attachable to a trunk lid of the towing vehicle.